

B A R N A R D C A S T L E U R B A N D I S T R I C T
C O U N C I L .



A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M e d i c a l O f f i c e r o f H e a l t h .

for the year

1 9 5 3 .

J. G. PALEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health,

Assistant School Medical Officer.

9th July, 1954.

Council Offices,
"Woodleigh",
Barnard Castle.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Rutter & Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1953.

There was again a slight increase in the number of live-births during the year, there being 85 compared with 70 last year, and 66 in the previous year. Deaths from all causes showed a further small fall compared with the previous year - 93 this year and 98 in 1952. There were 3 deaths of infants aged under one year.

Local Industries. - These are mainly concerned with agriculture, but the factory operated by Messrs. Glaxo Laboratories Limited, in Harmire Road, for the production of Penicillin, now affords employment for a large number of persons resident in the Urban and Rural Districts. The total number of persons employed at this factory at the end of the year was approximately 583 persons.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply. - Due to the exceptionally heavy rainfall during the summer months, the yield from the springs and the R.A.F. Borehole was sufficient to give a satisfactory supply throughout the whole of the year, and it was not found necessary to curtail the supply at any period.

In the event of the present supply not proving sufficient to meet the demand, water can now be taken from the Tees Valley Water Board mains by meter.

Twenty nine samples of water were sent for bacteriological examination. Twelve were in Class I, six in Class II, eight in Class III and three in Class IV.

Of these samples, four were taken from the collecting chamber of the Stoney Keld Springs and of these, two were in Class IV. In other words, they came under the category of "unsatisfactory" from a bacteriological point of view. It is noteworthy that four samples taken at about the same time from the Fountain Head spring were all highly satisfactory, and there was no evidence of contamination.

On the 25th May a heavy rainstorm occurred, 2" of rain falling in the region of the moorland gathering grounds in approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ hour. It is very likely that the contamination originated from the surface of the moorland gathering ground due to this abnormal deluge of water, and although I do not suggest that there is any appreciable danger of the spread of human infection in the water supply, it is evident that the Council's supply is liable to this surface contamination at one of the main sources of the supply, particularly after a period of heavy rainfall.

In view of this, I consider it would be advisable that the Council should come to a decision in regard to the proposed negotiations with the Tees Valley Water Board, or, alternatively, they should proceed with the Consulting Engineers scheme which provides for the chlorination of the water, fencing in of the reservoir, and the laying of a new main to the higher part of the town in order to provide reasonable pressure in that area.

The chemical analysis of the water is satisfactory.

Rivers and Streams. - Inspection of rivers and streams in the district is carried out by the officials of the Wear and Tees River Board. No report of fouling of any water course within the area has been received during the year.

Refuse Tip. - Tipping is proceeding in a westerly direction, the tipping face moving further away from the highway. As the tipping face advances, sections of the land recently purchased will be needed for the tipping area. The remainder of the land is let yearly for grazing.

At the east end of the tip which has been filled to finished level, soil has been spread over 2 acres. This area will be seeded and brought back into cultivation.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Works. - Investigation was carried out by officials of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research into the treatment of a certain amount of spent metabolite over a period of some months at the Sewage Works, where recirculation plant and additional humus tanks had been installed.

Reports issued by the D.S.I.R. in June and October indicated that the volume and strength of the sewage at the works had increased considerably since the original experiments were carried out in 1946, and that the works as at present constructed were unable to deal with additional loading with spent metabolite.

The reports were considered at the meeting held at the Ministry of Housing and Local Government on the 14th October, when all interested parties were present. At the end of the meeting, it was agreed that the Water Pollution Research Laboratory would give the Council's Consulting Engineers further particulars for the basis of their report.

The Council's Consulting Engineers report dated 11th December, 1953, has been received. The report sets out the requirements for the extension of the Sewage Disposal Works to meet the anticipated future flow of sewage and spent metabolite. A decision on the report is awaited.

The Sewage Disposal Works are being operated at present on a routine advised by the D.S.I.R. which is the same as that operating during the period of investigation.

Closet Accommodation. - Sixteen pail privies and two midden privies remain the same. All other properties are on the water carriage system. It is expected that most of the remaining pail privies will be removed as closing orders and clearance areas become operative.

Housing. - 52 Council, 4 private and 22 Military Officers' houses were completed during the year.

Land has been acquired at Green Lane which will accommodate approximately 177 houses. 17 houses of the first contract for 43 houses on this site were completed at the end of the year. A second contract for 21 houses was commenced.

Negotiations are still proceeding for the purchase of a site in Newgate which will accommodate eight to ten dwellings.

The number of applicants on the Council's housing list at the end of the year was 203, compared with a figure of 238 at the end of the previous year. This indicates that there is still an urgent need for new housing in the area.

PROVISION OF HOUSES BY LOCAL AUTHORITY.

	Situation	Bungalow 1 Bedroom	2 Bedrooms	3 Bedrooms	4 Bedrooms	TOTAL
Pre 1939	Dunelm Square Barnard Castle U.D.C.	4	13	6	2	25 *
	Dunelm Square North Eastern Housing Assoc.	10	1	-	-	10
	Dawson Road North Eastern Housing Assoc.	-	22	14	8	44
	Total Pre. 1939.	14	35	20	10	79
Post 1939	Victoria Road (Key Workers) Barnard Castle U.D.C.	-	-	12	-	12
	Zetland Road North Eastern Housing Assoc.	-	20	28	6	54
	Montalbo Road Estate North Eastern Housing Assoc.	8	-	82	12	102
	Zetland Road Extension North Eastern Housing Assoc.	6	6	-	-	12
	Green Lane Site North Eastern Housing Assoc.	-	14	13	-	39
	Total Post 1939.	14	46	145	19	224
	GRAND TOTAL.	28	81	165	29	303
In course of construction	Green Lane 1st Contract North Eastern Housing Assoc.	-	10	16	-	26
	Green Lane 2nd Contract North Eastern Housing Assoc.	-	6	14	1	21

* This figure comprises 7 houses and 18 flats.

Section 11 Housing Act, 1936. - The Demolition Order reported in the last two reports as being the subject of an appeal was determined on 22nd January, 1953.

Sections 9, 11, 12 and 25 Housing Act, 1936. - No action was taken under these sections during the year with the exception that one Closing Order was determined in connection with a house which was rendered fit for human habitation.

Demolition and Closing Orders. - The following is the position at the end of the year in regard to houses subject to Demolition and Closing Orders.

Demolition Orders 7. - One determined; two demolished, two partially demolished, one empty and one occupied.

Closing Orders. - One determined, three occupied.

Confirmed Clearance Areas. -

No. of Clearance Area	Date area confirmed	No. of Houses in Area	No. of Occupiers	No. of Occupiers 31/12/53.	No. Demolished 31/12/53.	No. Vacant 31/12/53.
1 to 6	27/8/35	36	46	Nil	36	Nil
8	-do-	5	6	Nil	3	2
9	-do-	2	2	Nil	Nil	2
1 to 9		43	54	Nil	39	4
10	12/3/38	2	2	1	Nil	1
11	-do-	2	3	Nil	Nil	2
12	-do-	3	3	Nil	1	2
13	-do-	3	3	1	Nil	2
14	-do-	7	10	2	3	1
15	-do-	5	5	2	3	Nil
16	-do-	5	12	1	4	Nil
17	-do-	7	7	Nil	7	Nil
18	-do-	2	2	2	Nil	Nil
19	-do-	13	18	9	Nil	7
20	-do-	3	3	Nil	2	1
21	-do-	2	2	Nil	1	1
22	-do-	7	7	5	Nil	2
10 to 22		61	77	23	21	19
GRAND TOTAL		104	131	23	60	23

As shown above, progress has been made in removing these dangerously unsanitary dwellings. The number of families in occupation has been reduced from 40 to 23, and 14 premises have been demolished during the year.

A start on the demolition of 9 more premises had been made by the end of the year.

Factories and Workshops - Factories Act, 1937 and 1948 - Part I.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	36	10	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	38	16	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Excluding outworkers premises)	6	22	1
TOTAL	80	48	1

Part VIII of the Act - Outwork. - The number of outworkers remains at six. All are working in satisfactory conditions.

Smoke Abatement. - No complaints were received of any smoke nuisance in the Council's area.

Tents and Caravans. - An application to station a trailer caravan used by temporary staff on part of a works site was authorised during the year.

The licence granted on 29th November, 1938, to use Field O.S. No. 38 as a Camping Ground was revoked as and from 31st July, 1953, on sanitary grounds.

Application to licence Field O.S. No. 2 at the side of the Red Well Inn as a camping ground was made during the year. This was not granted, as certain work required by the Council to the sanitary accommodation had not been carried out.

Rodent Control. - The rodent operative who had been for a number of years jointly employed by the Startforth Rural and Barnard Castle Urban and Rural Councils' was discharged, owing to the breaking away from the scheme of the two Rural Councils and the impossibility of full-time employment in rodent control within the Urban District.

The operative was employed in a temporary capacity to treat the sewers during the summer. Casual labour was employed to treat all other premises.

The Council's sewers, sewage works and refuse tip were treated twice, and 14 business, 1 agricultural and 2 domestic premises were treated during the year. The only major infestation was at the Council's refuse tip.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Ice Cream. - No ice-cream is manufactured in the town. Twenty-four premises are registered for the retail sale of ice-cream, most of which is prepacked.

Milk Retailers. - Eight retailers deliver in the area. Five are licensed to sell Tuberculin Tested and Pasteurised Milk.

Meat. - Slaughtering of animals for butchers in the Barnard Castle Urban and Rural Districts and the Startforth Rural District takes place at the Ministry of Food slaughterhouse in Vere Road.

Ante mortem inspection is carried out wherever possible.

Post mortem inspections are made on all animals at the time of slaughter or as soon after as is practicable.

Inspection is made by the Sanitary Inspector, holiday and sickness duty being undertaken by the two Sanitary Inspectors of the Barnard Castle Rural Council. All three officers hold the Meat and Foods Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

A further decrease in the percentage of animals found to be infected with tuberculosis was noted. In 1949 11.4% were found to be infected, in 1952 6.5% and in 1953 5.9%.

The number of pigs killed showed a substantial increase on previous years. In 1950, 112 pigs were killed, 1951 - 377, 1952 - 603 and 1953 - 1,310.

The main trouble with tuberculosis in pigs was encountered in February when 27 out of 48 pigs were found to be tubercular, and in July when 10 out of 10 sent in by one producer were affected.

PUBLIC HEALTH MEAT REGULATIONS.

The following table shows the animals killed, inspected and found unfit for human consumption at the Slaughterhouse during the year ending 31st December, 1953.

	Cattle excluding Cows				Sheep and Lambs				Pigs		
	C.C.		Cas.		C.C.		Cas.		C.C.		Cas.
											S.S.
Number Killed	1027	53	86	93	-	115	4380	204	1201	103	6
Number Inspected	1027	53	86	93	-	115	4380	204	1201	103	6
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis -</u>											
Whole carcase condemned	-	11	-	28	-	49	1	51	1	8	-
Part of carcase or organ condemned	193	25	21	54	-	17	43	32	40	35	-
Percentages of number inspected affected with diseases other than Tubercu- losis	18.8	67.9	24.4	88.2	-	57.4	1.0	40.7	3.4	41.7	-
<u>Tuberculosis only. -</u>											
Whole carcase condemned	7	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
Part of carcase or organ condemned	52	4	6	4	-	-	-	-	63	-	-
Percentages of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	5.7	7.5	8.1	4.3	-	-	-	-	5.2	3.9	-

Key to Diagram. -

C.C. - Animals from a Collecting Centre.

Cas. - Animals received as Casualties.

S.S. - Ministry of Food Self Supplying Scheme (Cottage Pigs).

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Number of Informal written notices by Inspector.	Number of Formal Notices by Order of Inspector.	Number of Nuisances abated after notice.
--	---	---

Dwelling Houses:

Structural defects	17	5	17
Overcrowding	-	-	-
Lodging Houses	-	-	-
Deposits of refuse and manure	1	-	1
Water Closets	7	-	7
House drainage	10	1	10
Water supply	7	3	7
Dustbins	4	-	4
	<u>46</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>46</u>

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	559
Population (Registrar General's Estimated figure - mid-year 1953)	4,816
Number of inhabited houses	1,491
Rateable Value	£28,788
Sum represented by a penny rate	£105. 2. 0.

I am indebted to the Curator of the Bowes Museum, Mr. Thomas Wake, for permission to include the following table.

Table showing RAINFALL in inches in
1953, compiled from the Bowes Museum.

Observation Station: Bowes Museum,
Observer: Thomas Wake,
Curator and Secretary for
the Trustees of the
Bowes Museum.

Height of Gauge
above Sea Level 550 feet.

<u>1953.</u>	<u>Ins.</u>
January	.55
February	2.08
March	.33
April	2.52
May	3.11
June	2.39
July	2.49
August	4.24
September	2.14
October	1.75
November	1.89
December	1.18
Total	<u>24.67</u>
Average 5 yrs. 1949 - 53.	29.19
	24.67 1953
	23.09 1952
	37.84 1951
	34.04 1950
	26.29 1949

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

<u>Live Births</u>	Legitimate } Illegitimate } 85	{	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
			77	40	37
			8	2	6

Crude Birth Rate 17.6 per 1,000 home population.

Adjusted 18.4. Corresponding rate for the 160 smaller towns
(resident population 25,000 - 50,000 at 1951 Census) 15.7.

<u>Still Births</u>	Legitimate } Illegitimate } 4	{	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
			4	3	1
			-	-	-

Still Birth Rate - per 1,000 home population - 0.83. Corresponding
rate for 160 smaller towns - 0.34.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
<u>Deaths</u>	93	53	40

Crude Death Rate. - 19.3.

Adjusted. - 15.2 per 1,000 home population.
For 160 smaller towns - 12.2.

Deaths of Infants Under One Year. -

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Total	3	-
Legitimate	2	-
Illegitimate	1	-

Deaths of Infants Under Four Weeks of Age. -

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Total	2	-
Legitimate	2	-
Illegitimate	-	-

Death Rate of Infants Under One Year. -

All Infants (per 1,000 live births) 35.2. 160 smaller towns 24.3.

Causes of Deaths.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	-	1
Cancer (all types)	6	4	10
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-	1
Diabetes	-	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	6	11
Coronary disease, angina	8	3	11
Hypertension with heart disease	-	3	3
Other Heart disease	13	18	31
Other circulatory disease	4	1	5
Pneumonia	-	1	1
Bronchitis	1	-	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	-	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	3	-	3
Nephritis and nephrosis	3	1	4
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	2	5
All other accidents	1	-	1
	<u>53</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>93</u>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

A total of 149 cases of infectious diseases was notified during the year. This compares with 21 notifications in 1952, 43 in 1951 and 196 in 1950. The main increase in the incidence was due to an outbreak of measles which commenced in January and continued until the end of March. There was also an increase in the number of cases of whooping cough. There were no deaths from either of these causes.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis and Food Poisoning)
during the year 1953.

	No.	Admitted to Hospital	Diagnosis		Total Cases
			not Confirmed		
Scarlet Fever	5	1	-		5
Acute Primary Pneumonia	3	-	-		3
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-		1
Measles	117	-	-		117
Whooping Cough	23	-	-		23

Analysis of the total cases (confirmed) in age groups

	Under one year	1 to 3	3 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	-
Acute Primary Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Measles	6	25	31	52	3	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	4	6	11	1	-	-	-

Notifiable Diseases (confirmed) during recent years.

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Scarlet Fever	2	27	2	1	5	4	5
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	50	60	2	147	27	-	117
Whooping Cough	18	9	5	45	4	9	23
Anterior Poliomyelitis	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Acute Primary Pneumonia	-	2	2	1	3	5	3
Erysipelas	-	1	-	2	2	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	1	-	-	-	1

Diphtheria Immunisation. - According to the records received at the County Health Department, 56 children aged under 15 years were given a primary course of immunisation. This compared with 70 in 1950, 50 in 1951 and 56 in 1952.

Responsibility for the provision of facilities for immunisation and for the maintenance of propaganda now rests with the County Health Department. Facilities are provided at the child welfare centre for the immunisation of children under five and by private practitioners for children of any age.

Leaflets drawing attention to the need for immunisation are distributed by post at the age of eight months and twelve months, and to encourage re-inforcing doses, at the age of four years nine months. The County Health Visitor visits children who have not been immunised.

In addition, advice and reminders are given to parents by the Assistant School Medical Officer at the annual medical inspection of schools.

In April and May, by arrangement with the County Education Authority, two sessions for immunisation were held in the Barnard Castle Infants School. At these sessions, 11 children were given a primary course of immunisation, and 7 were given re-inforcing injections.

Diphtheria Immunisation Return for the year ended
31st December, 1953.

Age at date of Final injection.		Total under 15
0 - 4 yrs.	5 - 14 yrs.	
39	11	50

Number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation during the year ended 31st December, 1953.

Number given re-inforcing injection - 42.

Tuberculosis.

Two new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and one non-pulmonary case were notified during the year.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
25	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Public Health Staff. - The Medical Officer of Health is a part-time Officer. A grant is made towards his salary by the Ministry of Health.

The Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector are whole-time officers. Part of their salaries are paid by the Urban District Council and portions by the Ministries of Health and Transport.

A County Health Visitor resides in the town, and part of her time is allocated to the duties of County School Nurse.

Hospitals. - There are no special hospitals for Tuberculosis, Maternity cases or children, in the area.

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, control of the Infectious Disease Hospitals formerly administered by the Auckland, Shildon and Willington Joint Hospital Board, was taken over by the South West Durham Hospital Management Committee. Cases of infectious diseases requiring hospital treatment are sent to one of these hospitals.

The Richardson Memorial Convalescent Home, which was taken over during the war under the Emergency Medical Services Hospitals Scheme, is now used as a Convalescent Holiday Home for patients from hospitals in the County of Durham, North Riding of Yorkshire and the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Ambulance Facilities. - I am indebted to the County Medical Officer's Ambulance Department, Durham, for the following statements relating to the working of the Ambulance Service during the year.

T A B L E A.

	Bishop Auckland No. 14 Control Area	Barnard Castle Urban and Rural Districts.
Ambulance Controls	1	Nil
Clerk-Telephonists	4	Nil
Ambulance Depots	5	2
Ambulances	15	2
Sitting-Case Cars	Nil	Nil
Driver-Attendants	39	4

* Barnard Castle Urban and Rural Districts form part of this Control Area, the column adjoining showing the depots, etc., actually situated within the districts. The whole of the facilities provided in the Control Area are available to the districts. The Ambulance Control is situated at Bishop Auckland and is staffed by 4 clerk-telephonists who maintain a 24-hour service.

T A B L E B.

Summary of work done during 1953 by vehicles stationed in Barnard Castle Urban & Rural Districts.

Journeys	Cases Carried			Mileage
	Stretcher	Sitting	Total	
1105	568	4579	5147	66377

Note:

In addition to the above, patients residing in the urban and rural districts are also conveyed by vehicles from neighbouring depots within the Control Area and by the Darlington Ambulance Service, as occasion demands. Records are not maintained in sanitary district order, and information regarding these cases cannot be conveniently supplied.

Nursing Arrangements. - Under Section 25 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the provision of a Home Nursing Service became the responsibility of Local Health Authorities as from the 5th July, 1948. By an agreement concluded with the Durham County Nursing Association, the Durham County Council have delegated general supervision of the County Medical Officer. This arrangement has necessitated the integration and co-ordination by the County Nursing Association of the service formerly provided by individual district nursing associations and the transfer of administration to the County Association.

The arrangements whereby the domiciliary midwifery service in certain areas of the County was provided on an agency basis by district nursing associations are continued under Section 23 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, with the County Nursing Association acting as the agent.

Both services are now available free of charge.

Services are provided for this area and for the Startforth District by two nurses resident in the town. General, midwifery and maternity cases are nursed.

There is a small Nursing Home at 32, Bede Road (Proprietress - Hilda Smurthwaite, S.R.N., S.C.M.), chiefly for maternity cases.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

An Infant Welfare Clinic and a School Clinic are held on alternate weeks at the Trinity Methodist Schoolroom, Barnard Castle, under the administration of the County Council.

Area Health Sub-Committee. - The Committee, of which three members of the Council are members, met on four occasions during the year and the County Medical Officer's reports were considered.

I am indebted to your Surveyor, Mr. F. L. White, and to Mr. E. Dixon, Sanitary Inspector, for their assistance in compiling this report.

I am, Mrs. Rutter and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. G. PALEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.